



## Neighborhood Watch Monthly Newsletter

### May 2008

*It's your community – Get involved!*

#### **Are your doors locked?**

When thinking of doors and locks as security remember, a door and lock are only good for security purposes if they are used. **A history of reports of unlawful or unauthorized entries tells us that locks are not being used and suspects are walking right into their target.** We see this with residential burglaries, storage facilities, sheds, vehicle burglaries, thefts and the list goes on and on. Locks are there for a reason so use them. So much crime would be prevented if this simple step was used and eventually formed into a habit.

When evaluating a point of entry for security purposes, you need to consider all things on and in the immediate vicinity of the door as having an effect on its security. Let's look at each part of a door and lock that can have an impact on whether unauthorized entry is made or not. This is particularly important for residential and business settings. Statistics from April 2008 show that 43 burglaries happened throughout Sandy City. Implement the following suggestions and hopefully you won't be the next victim.

When looking at doors consider the following; can you see who is at the door from the inside? If not, install a peephole. This will let you and your children know who is at the door before it is opened. Install the peephole in a location where children as well as adults will be able to use it. A 190 degree view is recommended.

All exterior doors, including the door between your house and the garage, and the garage to the yard, should be solid core construction or heavy metal with a minimum thickness of 1 3/8 inches. Furthermore, to secure French or double doors, one of the doors must be made inactive. This can be done by installing flush bolts at the top and bottom of the door that is secured into metal strike plates. A deadbolt should then be added to the active door. Sliding glass doors are also vulnerable to attacks by burglars. To secure a sliding glass door, pin it. Drill a slightly downward sloping hole through the center or bottom portion of the sliding door frame. Insert a pin. This will help secure the door from being pried open. To keep it from being lifted out of the track, you can place two or three screws in the top track that allow just enough room for the door to open and close, but will not allow the door to be lifted.

Strike Plates are another part of the security of a door structure. The recommendation with strike plates is that they should be heavy metal and installed with wood screws with a minimum length of 3 inches. The screws should take you past the door frame into the frame of the house or the structural 2x4's.

Deadbolt locks are recommended for best security. Deadbolt locks should feature the following; a single cylinder, a 1 inch bolt throw (minimum), a rotating cylinder guard, a five pin tumbler, and a hardened steel interlocking screw. For padlocks on a storage facility, pick one that will give you the protection you need. The most common assault on a padlock is with a large bolt cutter or pry bar. An exterior pad lock should feature the following; case hardened steel, a 9/32 inch shackle, a locking mechanism in both the heel and toe. Memorize and then remove the key code numbers from all padlocks. Evaluate how good your locks are and consider upgrading to better ones.

Key control is another factor in the security of a door. Where are your keys? Do you leave them hanging right inside the house? Are they in the middle console of your vehicle? Have you just moved in and it's possible that a former tenant still has the same keys? These are all questions that should be thought about. You have defeated the purpose of locks if you don't know where the keys are. Also, where is your garage door opener? Treat this with as much security as you do your keys. Essentially, it is an electronic key to gain entry into your home and the valuables in your garage.

Finally, while checking out all of your exterior doors, look at the hinges. Are any of your hinges exposed to the outside? If so, replace the hinges with those that have non-removable hinge pins. That way the door can't be un-hinged from the outside for easy entry.

Remember, most burglars will spend no longer than 60 seconds trying to break into a home or business. Investing a small amount of time and money on your end could be the factor that makes the burglar move on. When implementing these tips, keep in mind that safety comes before security. Do not use methods that may prevent you from escape during a dangerous situation such as a fire.

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## April 2008

<b>Sandy City Offenses</b>	<b>Flat Iron</b>	<b>Canyon</b>	<b>Dimple Dell</b>	<b>Bluff</b>	<b>Auto Mall</b>	<b>South Towne</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>Total</b>
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	5
Alcohol Offenses	1	0	1	0	2	2	11	13	30
Animal Problems	1	4	0	1	0	0	2	9	17
Arson	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Burglary	6	5	2	1	5	2	8	14	43
Death Calls	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	3	8
Disorderly	2	3	2	0	2	1	5	8	23
Domestics	8	12	3	1	5	2	13	26	70
Drug Offenses	7	2	1	2	16	6	41	26	101
Forgeries & Frauds	3	5	0	1	1	1	5	9	25
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Problems	5	3	5	1	15	3	31	26	89
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Property Offenses	14	15	10	1	16	9	24	26	115
Protective Orders	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	4
Sex offenses	1	2	0	0	2	1	6	5	17
Simple Assault	7	14	5	2	4	1	23	18	74
Suspicious Calls	3	4	3	1	3	1	8	4	27
Theft	12	5	3	1	30	41	39	58	189
Threats	5	3	2	0	4	1	7	8	30
Traffic Crashes	16	14	9	5	20	12	54	47	177
Trespassing	2	4	1	0	4	1	5	3	20
Vehicle Burglary	2	8	2	4	8	8	20	15	67
Vehicle Theft	8	2	0	0	3	0	9	4	26
Warrant Service	1	3	1	0	9	0	16	20	50
Weapons Offense	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1,220</b>

**Flat Iron-** 1300 E to the East border, North border to 9400 S; **Canyon-** 1300 E to the East border, 9400 S to the Gully; **Dimple Dell-** 1300 E to the East border, 10350 S to 11400 S; **Bluff-** 1300 E to the East border, 11400 S to South border; **South Towne-** West border to 1300 E, Gully to 10600 S; **Auto Mall-** West border to 1300 E, 10600 S to South border; **Historic-** West border to 1300 E, North border to 9000 S; **Jordan-** West border to 1300 E, 9000 S to the Gully